

Horseman stars for Isthmians

Rothmans Isthmian League 5, Hellenic League 0.

THE Rothmans Isthmian League XI completely outclassed a Hellenic League side at Loakes Park on Wednesday night, scoring five goals without reply with Tony Horseman, Wycombe Wanderers' leading goalscorer heading two of them to bring his season's tally to 44.

During the interval Larry Pritchard hastily swapped his jersey to receive the Isthmian trophy from league secretary Mr. Ingram Whittingham, who said Wycombe were worthy champions. After paying tribute to the team and the officials, Mr. Whittingham also praised the crowd for their support given to the club this season. "You, the supporters, are fantastic, well worthy of such a magnificent club."

As the Wanderers skipper received the trophy, the championship flag was hoisted. Receiving the trophy, Larry thanked the supporters for their enthusiasm. "It's been tremendous to play in front of you this season — I hope to see you again next season."

It was somewhat disappointing that only 641 attended the game, which, although extremely one-sided, produced some excellent football and plenty of goals. Wycombe were well represented by Terry Reardon, Steve Perrin, Horseman and Pritchard.

UNBEATABLE

Of the other players in the Isthmian side, Hendon and Wales centre half Alan Phillips looked unbeatable all night while tiny Hitchin winger Paul Giggle scored two skilful goals and gave the Hellenic defence a real headache.

The Isthmians, playing 4-2-4, went ahead after ten minutes when a defence splitting ball from Horseman carved a way through the Hellenic defence for Howard Kettleborough to drive firmly past unfortunate 'keeper Jim Utteridge. Chris Kelly, the Leatherhead and England striker, twice went close soon afterwards but tended to hang onto the ball too long later in the half.

As the match progressed, it became obvious the Hellenic League XI were a class below their celebrated opponents, who looked superior in every

department. The defence was hopelessly inadequate to deal with the incessant Isthmian attacks and it was no surprise when Giggle made it 2-0 with 25 minutes gone. Once again a Wycombe man made the goal, this time Reardon heading down for Giggle to run through slip Utteridge and place the ball home.

Dave Watts had the Hellenic's first chance of a reply two minutes later after Derek Wise slipped the ball inside but the ball whistled just past the post with Oxford City goalkeeper Peter Harris for once, struggling.

With Pritchard and Reardon dominating in the middle, it was not long before the Isthmians went further ahead — this time Tony Horseman showing just why he is the league leading goalscorer. The third goal was an all Wycombe affair. From ten yards outside the Hellenic penalty area, Reardon drilled in a free kick for Horseman to rise above the defence to head powerfully home.

There was little respite for the Hellenic's in the second half. It was only two minutes old when the fourth goal was added. This time Utteridge was at fault, his poor goalkick going straight to Kettleborough who crossed into the box for Horseman to nod home at the far post. Eight minutes later Giggle completed the nap hand. Eaton's shrewd pass caught the Hellenic defence completely square. Running through, Giggle cheekily flicked the ball over stranded 'keeper but in doing so, turned his ankle and had to be replaced by Steve Perrin.

To their credit, the Hellenic team fought back bravely against all the odds, with Mel Symmonds the pick of midfield. However, their square passing game was easy prey for Phillips and Co. and the closest they came to a goal was when Derek Wise forced the save of the night from Harris. Receiving the ball outside the box, Wise sent in a powerful half volley which Harris did well to touch round the post.

Horseman had one chance to complete his hat trick seven minutes before the close but Utteridge was well positioned to hold 'Bodgers' swerving shot after Eaton had again set up the chance.

FINAL TABLE

ROTHMANS ISTHMIAN LEAGUE

Division One Final Table						
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Wycombe	42	27	9	6	96	34 80
Hendon	42	25	13	4	83	20 88
Bishop	42	26	9	7	78	26 87
Dulwich	42	22	11	9	71	38 77
Leatherhead	42	23	6	13	81	44 75
Walton	42	20	12	10	68	50 72
Woking	42	22	6	14	83	56 72
Welling	41	20	11	10	67	49 71
Leytonstone	42	20	9	13	63	44 69
Ilford	42	20	8	14	60	44 68
Hayes	42	17	14	11	65	43 65
Oxford	42	15	15	11	45	47 61
Sutton	42	13	16	13	51	52 55
Hitchin	42	15	10	17	68	73 55
Barking	42	14	12	16	57	58 54
Kings	42	12	15	15	47	46 51
Tooting	42	14	9	19	57	62 51
Enfield	42	13	11	18	50	67 50
Wistow	42	11	13	18	46	62 42
Bromley	42	7	9	26	37	81 30
Clapton	42	8	3	31	36	128 27
St Albans	42	4	7	31	30	82 19
Casuals	42	3	4	35	31	107 13

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: P. Harris (Oxford City); A. Jennings (Enfield); A. Evans (Oxford City) sub D. Reid (Leatherhead 45 mins); A. Phillips (Wales and Hendon); R. Eaton (England and Enfield); L. Pritchard (England and Wycombe); T. Reardon (England and Wycombe); C. Kelly (England and Leatherhead); A. Horseman (Wycombe Wanderers); H. Kettleborough (Hitchin); P. Giggle (Hitchin sub S. Perrin (Wycombe 56 mins).

HELLENIC LEAGUE: J. Utteridge (Moreton Town); A. Chellinor (Bicester Town); L. Cother (Moreton Town); C. Shepherd (Moreton Town); W. Prior (Didcot); D. Freeman (Clanfield); D. Wise (Wantage); M. Symmonds (Thatcham); T. Whiffen (Abingdon); D. Watts (Hungerford Town sub J. Lamb (Hungerford 58 mins); N. Farr (Moreton).

Referee: T. Bune (Sussex F. A.).

Attendance: 641.